

**A clean environment is
important to all of us!**

Did you know that storm drains are NOT connected to sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants? The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Untreated storm water, and the pollutants it carries, flows directly into creeks, lagoons and the ocean.

In recent years, sources of water pollution, like industrial waters from factories, have been greatly reduced. However, now the majority of water pollution occurs from things like: cars leaking oil; fertilizer from farms, lawns and gardens; failing septic tanks; pet waste; and residential car washing into the storm drains and into the ocean and waterways.

All these sources add up to a pollution problem! But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water and that adds up to **pollution solution!**

Motor oil photo is used courtesy of the Water Quality Consortium, a cooperative venture between the Washington State Department of Ecology, King County and the cities of Bellevue, Seattle and Tacoma.

*The content is used courtesy
of the City of Carlsbad*

**Remember
ONLY RAIN IN THE STORM DRAIN!**



City of Imperial Beach
Storm Water Protection Program
825 Imperial Beach Boulevard
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

**Storm Water Hotline:
(619) 424-4095**



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Motor Oil



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Storm Water Protection Program**

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What's the problem with motor oil?

Oil does not dissolve in water. It lasts a long time and sticks to everything from beach sand to bird feathers. Oil and other petroleum products are toxic to people, wildlife and plants.

One pint of oil can make a slick larger than a football field. Oil that leaks from our cars onto roads and driveways is washed into storm drains, and then usually flows directly to a creek or lagoon and finally to the ocean.

Used motor oil is the largest single source of oil pollution in our ocean, creeks and lagoons. Americans spill 180 million gallons of used oil each year into our waters. This is **16 times** the amount spilled by the Exxon Valdez in Alaska.



How can YOU help keep our environment clean?

Having a clean environment is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean waterways provide commercial opportunities, recreation, fish habitat and add beauty to our landscape. YOU can help keep our ocean, creeks and lagoons clean by applying the following tips:



- Stop drips. Check for oil leaks regularly and fix them promptly. Keep your car tuned to reduced oil use.
- Use ground cloths or drip pans beneath your vehicle if you have leaks or are doing engine work.
- Clean up spills immediately. Collect all used oil in containers with tight fitting lids. Do not mix different engine fluids.
- When you change your oil, dispose of it properly. Never dispose of oil or other engine fluids down the storm drain, on the ground or into a ditch.
- Recycle used motor oil. There are several locations in Imperial Beach that accept used motor oil.
- Buy recycled ("refined") motor oil to use in your car.
- Free recycling of oil and filter call 1-800-237-2583 - **OR** -
- Pick up a free funnel and gallon jug from the City. Call 619-424-4095 to inquire.

